

**MPO, State & FHWA/FTA
Coordination Meeting Minutes
MAPA, SIMPCO, Grand Island and Lincoln MPOs**

November 22, 2013

10:00 AM to 3:15 PM

10:30 Roundtable Discussion

- **Project Initiation & Delivery**
NDOR suggested the MPOs develop a draft project schedule to be included with a DR 530 submittal. This schedule should be included with the guidance for filling out a DR 530. NDOR also suggested the work flow template be expanded to include a schedule. It was stressed that is important to generate realistic schedule before a project is programmed.
- **CMAQ Funding**
NDOR presented interim guidance on CMAQ funding. The presentation included criteria on how to apply and additional reporting requirements required by NDOR. There was considerable interest in CMAQ funding by MPOs. See PowerPoint presentation and CMAQ handout for additional information. The NDOR will soon have a page on their website where CMAQ information will be located.
- **NDOR Administration of Local Projects**
NDOR explained a draft policy (currently in early stages of development) for NDOR to take on the RC responsibilities for first class cities and counties outside the Lincoln and MAPA MPO areas. NDOR would perform RC duties for LPA's outside the TMAs for the following funding:
 - ✓ BRO- Off System Bridges
 - ✓ TAP-Transportation Alternative Program
 - ✓ HSIP- Safety projects
 - ✓ RRZ/TMT-Railroad Grade Separations.
 - ✓ SRR-State Rec Road.
- **Transit Asset Management**
NDOR shared that Transit Asset Management (TAM) is a priority for recipients and sub-recipients under MAP-21 funding. FTA released an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) in October to solicit input on TAMs and safety. AASHTO is collecting comments to submit to FTA by January 2, 2014. Of critical importance will be FTA's definition of State of Good Repair (SGR). AASHTO is strongly suggesting that SGR be based solely on age of the vehicle and perhaps mileage. This is the only objective measurement available. Condition of vehicle and performance are subjective and would corrupt data collection on a national level.
- **Freight Planning**
NDOR shared an update on freight planning. He emphasized that NDOR is aware of the emphasis of freight planning under MAP-21 guidelines and is exploring the State Freight Advisory Committees and State Freight Plan development options. NDOR may

comment on the 27,000 mile limit of the primary freight network. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information.

- Complete Streets policy at MPOs
MAPA, Lincoln, and SIMPCO MPOs are all working on Complete Streets policy. SIMPCO informed the group of the SIMPCO MPO's current work on a complete streets policy. The city of Sioux City is participating in a statewide health initiative, the Blue Zone Project (<https://www.bluezonesproject.com/>). As part of the health initiative the City is required to pass a complete streets policy. The MPO was asked to bring back a complete Street resolution that had failed in 2009. Working with the Blue Zone Project staff, it was recommended that the MPO try to pass a policy first, to encourage approval at the local level. SIMPCO MPO staff is currently working on a draft policy which is going to the MPO for a vote in January. MAPA and Lincoln MPO shared their experiences with complete streets.

11:30 Nokia Travel Time Data/INVEST Demonstration

- FHWA provided information on the INVEST self-assessment tool to index the sustainability of projects. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information.
- FHWA provided an overview of the Nokia Travel Time Data available to all MPOs and State DOTs.

12:30 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Session

- Modeling Manual
IADOT presented a proposal on a MPO Modeling Manual currently under development. He is inviting the MPOs to comment on the proposal. See PowerPoint presentation for additional information.
- LRTP Topics and Roundtable Discussion
FHWA led a roundtable discussion centering on cooperative revenue forecasting and inclusion of State projects MPO TIPs and LRTPs. This topic stemmed from the Lincoln 2013 certification where FHWA and FTA recommend developing improved coordination and a transparent project selection process for the inclusion of NDOR projects into the LRTP/TIP, as well as improved coordination with NDOR/MPO revenue forecasting. The Lincoln MPO wishes more input into the selection of State projects. **(ACTION ITEM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION)**

1:30 MPO Project Presentations

- Grand Island – Update on Startup
Grand Island will soon hire a planner to help manage the MPO planning process.
- SIMPCO - Visualization Techniques/Social Media
SIMPCO is using ARC GIS for online mapping and discussed their use of social media (Facebook and Twitter) to expand public participation.
- Lincoln – Downtown Protected Bikeway
See PowerPoint Presentation for summary of presentation.
- MAPA – Regional Transit Project

MAPA is working with a consultant to “Right Size” their public transit service and is exploring the option to add Bus Rapid Transit in their area

2:30 Continued Roundtable Discussion

- Update on MPO manual and reporting
NDOR provided an update on the NDOR Operating Manual for MPO Transportation Planning. The focus of the presentation was on the UPWP development and invoicing timeline. NDOR, in cooperation with the MPOs, need to establish a method for quarterly reporting on the use of PL funds (**ACTION ITEM FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**). See PowerPoint presentation for additional information.
- Grouped Projects in the TIP
The flexibility to group projects that are not regionally significant by function, work type or geographic area in the TIP is available. See PowerPoint presentation for approved work types.

3:00 Next Meeting/Host

- MAPA volunteered to host the next meeting which will be held on June 18, 2014 at the District Two Operations Center.